



## Program Overview

### Introduction

The Office of the Governor, Attorney General Bill Schuette, the Michigan State Police, the Michigan Department of Education, the Michigan Department of Community Health, and the Michigan Department of Human Services are taking action to improve the safety of Michigan schools for our children. Their student safety initiative is called OK-2-SAY.

### Goal

The goal of OK-2-SAY is to create a comprehensive communication system that empowers students, parents, school personnel, and law enforcement officials to share and respond to student safety threats.

### Rationale

In many schools, a culture of silence is reinforced among students who consider it intrusive or "uncool" to report ("snitch") threatening behavior for fear of retaliation and stigmatization. Research indicates that in 81% of violent incidents in U.S. schools, someone other than the attacker had knowledge of the attacker's plan but failed to report it.

### Features

OK-2-SAY opens the lines of communication among students and caring, professional adults through:

- **Confidential Reporting:** Reporter confidentiality will be statutorily guaranteed.
- **Comprehensive Technology:** Tip submission mechanisms will include 24/7 telephone, website, e-mail, text, and multimedia options.
- **Coordinated Intervention:** The Michigan State Police will field initial reports and promptly provide the information to appropriate local law enforcement agencies and school districts.
- **Complete Disposition:** To promote accountability, program operators will be asked to complete outcome reports detailing the nature of the tip, the action taken in response, the outcome achieved, and suggestions for improvement.

### Benefits

Key benefits of the OK-2-SAY program include:

- **Increased Safety:** Facilitates responses to harmful behaviors like bullying, substance abuse, weapons possession, and suicide threats.
- **Collaborative Support:** Empowers students to dialogue with adult authorities, transforming the culture of silence into a collaborative support system.
- **Timely Response:** Encourages prompt responses to submitted reports through police coordination, disposition filings, and 24/7 availability.
- **Improved Academic Performance:** Creates a safer learning environment where students can reach their full academic potential.

### Success

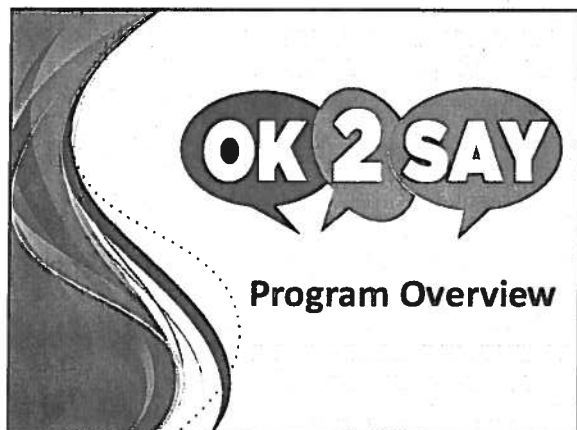
Other states have successfully implemented similar student safety programs, including:

- **Colorado:** Program has documented and resolved 284 planned school attacks, 320 gun/weapon reports, 469 sexual offenses, 1,323 planned suicides, and 2,207 bullying instances.
- **Missouri:** Key successes include tip submission through downloadable mobile app. Program fielded 1,000+ reports in 2011, and 80% of law enforcement surveyed believe the hotline promotes cooperation between law enforcement agencies and school officials.

### Timeline

The target is to establish an operational program by December, 2013.





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## Introduction

Recent acts of school violence remind us that we have a *student safety problem* that hurts schools, communities, and families.

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## Introduction

The Office of the Governor, Attorney General Bill Schuette, the Michigan State Police, the Michigan Department of Education, the Michigan Department of Community Health, and the Michigan Department of Human Services are taking action to secure Michigan schools. Their student safety initiative is called:



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## What is OK-2-SAY?

A program that empowers students, parents, schools, and law enforcement to share and respond to student safety threats.

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## The Problem

A *culture of silence* that makes it "uncool" to tell on your friends.




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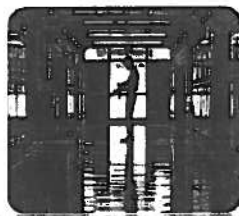
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## The Consequence

In **81%** of violent acts in U.S. schools, someone other than the attacker had knowledge of the attacker's plan but ***failed*** to report it.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Education Policy and Planning, "The Consequence of Failure to Report: A Study of School Violence Incidents," U.S. Department of Education, May 2000.

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## How Does It Work?

OK-2-SAY encourages communication among students and caring, professional adults through:

- Confidential Reporting
- Comprehensive Technology
- Coordinated Intervention
- Complete Disposition

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## Confidential Reporting

Reporter confidentiality is guaranteed.




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## Comprehensive Technology

Tip submissions are available 24/7.




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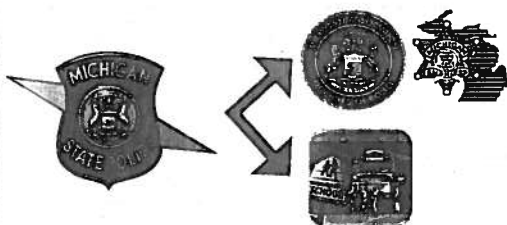
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## Coordinated Intervention

MSP will take reports and promptly provide information to local law enforcement agencies and/or school districts.




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## Complete Disposition

To promote accountability, program operators will be asked to complete outcome reports detailing:

- Type of tip
- Response
- Outcome
- Suggestions for improvement




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## Benefits

- Increased Safety
- Collaborative Support
- Timely Response
- Improved Academic Performance

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## Increased Safety



**OK-2-SAY**  
facilitates  
responses to  
harmful behaviors  
like bullying,  
substance abuse,  
weapons  
possession, and  
suicide threats.

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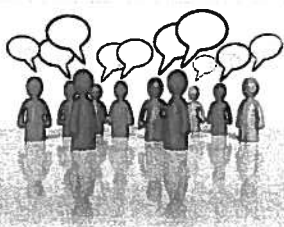
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## Collaborative Support



**OK-2-SAY**  
empowers  
dialogue where  
students feel safe  
reporting  
dangerous  
situations to  
authorities.

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## Timely Response

**OK-2-SAY**  
encourages prompt  
responses to  
submitted reports  
through police  
coordination,  
disposition filings,  
and 24/7  
availability.




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## Improved Academic Performance



OK-2-SAY creates a safer learning environment where students can reach their full academic potential.

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## Proven Success

Other states have implemented similar student safety programs that have saved lives.

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## Colorado

Program has documented and resolved:

- 284 planned school attacks
- 330 gun / weapon incidents
- 469 sexual offenses
- 1,323 suicide interventions
- 2,207 bullying incidents

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## Missouri

### Successes Include:

- Tips sent through mobile app
- 1,000+ reports in 2011
- 80% of law enforcement say the hotline promotes cooperation between law enforcement agencies and school officials

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## Timeline

The target is to establish an operational program by December, 2013.




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## Questions? Feedback?

We value your input! E-mail your questions or comments to:

**Ok2SayAdmin@MI.gov**

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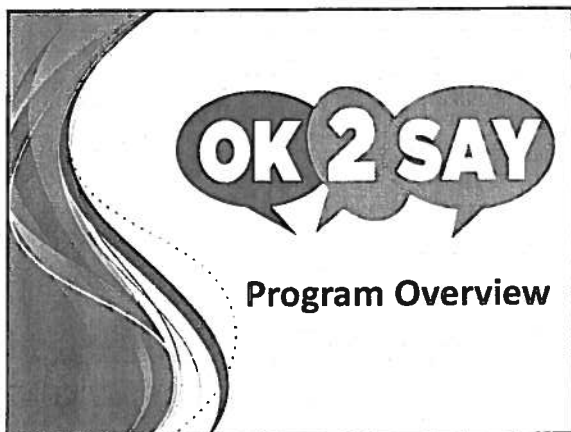
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## Partners of OK-2-SAY

### State Partners Supporters



Office of the Governor



Michigan Attorney General's Office



Michigan Department of Community Health



Michigan Department of Education



Michigan Department of Human Services



Michigan State Police

### Interest Groups in Support



American Federation of Teachers Michigan



Cadillac Area Public Schools



Helen DeVos Children's Hospital



Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police



Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators



Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools



Michigan Association of School Administrators



Michigan Association of School Boards



Michigan Association of School Social Workers



Michigan Catholic Conference



Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals



Michigan Education Association



Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association



Michigan Parent Teacher Association



Michigan Sheriffs Association



Middle Cities Risk Management Trust



Middle Cities Education Association



Middle Cities Workers Compensation Fund



Oakland Schools



Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan